

AIR QUALITY

Would the project cause degradation to air quality?

Unfortunately, we do not have an answer to this question tonight. We are still analyzing the impacts. This information will be available in the *Draft EIS* to be issued in late 2006.

What are the standards for air quality?

- The Clean Air Act of 1970 and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 and 1990 established maximum concentrations of certain air quality pollutants known to have possible harmful effects at certain concentrations in the atmosphere. These are carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and particulate matter.
- Generally, the law requires that areas exceeding these concentrations, or standards, to be designated as “nonattainment.” Nonattainment areas must have a federally approved plan to work toward achieving the standards by a specified date. Once plan goals are achieved, the area can be re-designated to attainment.
- The Valley has been designated a nonattainment area for ozone and particulate matter. Federally approved plans are being implemented to meet the standards.
- The Valley was previously designated a nonattainment area for carbon monoxide, but was recently changed to attainment. The area has a plan in place to ensure that the carbon monoxide standard continues to be met.

